

Library Commissioners Report  
Melinda Cervantes, County Librarian  
Santa Clara County Library  
November 2005

1. At their October meeting, the Santa Clara County Library Joint Powers Authority approved adding WiFi (wireless) access to all eight libraries. Not only will this become a convenient way for patrons to access to Library resources, but it will also free up existing computers for other patrons. WiFi access will go live by spring 2006.
2. Its official! The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Library Friends and Commissioners Forum will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2006 from 9:00am – 12:30pm at the Library Administration Offices, 14600 Winchester Blvd., Los Gatos. Pat Taviss, CALTAC trainer and professional consultant will be the Keynote Speaker and will focus on library advocacy, roles and responsibilities of Friends and Commissioners and community engagement. All current and prospective Library Friends and Commissioners as well as JPA and other elected and appointed officials are welcome to attend.
3. Save the date for the Silicon Valley Reads; One book, One Community Kick-off event on February 1, 2006 at 7:00pm at the Heritage Theatre in Campbell. *The Souvenir: A Daughter Discovers Her Father's War* by Louise Steinman and *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka explore two families' experiences during World War II. Silicon Valley Reads is celebrated during the month of February with author events, writing programs and book discussion groups throughout the Valley.
4. The 2005 Hennen's American Public Library Ratings (HAPLR) Index published in the October issue of *American Libraries*. Santa Clara County Library is ranked #2 in the population category 250,000-499,999; this is a drop from the last four years when SCCL was ranked #1. We're still one of only three libraries in California that ranked in the top 100 libraries nationwide; Santa Clara City Library and St. Helena Public Library are the other two. Howard County Library (MD) is a newcomer to the 250,000 – 499,999 having moved up from the 100,000 – 249,999 population category; they also operate a main library and five branches, each open 66 hours per week.

**Morgan Hill Library, Culture & Arts Commission**  
**November 14, 2005**  
**Rosanne Macek, Community Librarian**

## **NEW LIBRARY**

We've had one team meeting since the Commission last met. We focused on the details of the circulation and reference desks and relocated the express checkout machines so that they will be accessible. We are also dealing with the challenges of the new automated materials handling system, which was not part of our original building program. This equipment, which will be implemented in all County Libraries over the next 2 years, is essential to the operation of the new library since we will have a building that is twice the size, circulation that will likely be substantially higher, yet the same number of staff. Since space was not allocated for this equipment as part of the initial building design, we have had to reduce both the Friends and library staff space to accommodate this.

## **USER STATISTICS**

*Circulation:* Our overall circulation for the first quarter of FY 2006 (July-Sept.) was down 7%, which tracks with open hours also being down 7%. As a comparison, circulation at our Gilroy library was down 7% and at Campbell circulation was down 9%.

*New library cards:* We saw a jump in new library card applications, which increased 15% over last year. We also saw usage of our express check out machines increase to 26% of overall circulation, compared with 17% last year.

## **STAFFING**

I am very happy to report that we are well on our way to filling most of the positions that have remained open this year. **Mary Datoc** just joined us last week as a half-time clerk, coming to us from Wells Fargo Bank. **Nichole Pereira** has been with us a couple of weeks now as our new half-time teen librarian, coming to us from Mountain View and Santa Clara City libraries. **Saralyn Otter** will be joining us on November 28 as our new full-time children's program librarian, coming to us from the Los Angeles Public Library. We are very excited about welcoming these new staff members.

I am very sorry to report that Diana Lara, our half-time Spanish-speaking children's librarian, has transferred to a full-time position at our Milpitas library. This means that all our Spanish language programs for children, including storytime and class visits, have been put on hold. We will be having interviews to fill this newly vacant position in early December. While our priority is to hire another Spanish speaker, this is unlikely given our pool of candidates, so it will be a challenge to provide the best service to this large part of our community.

## UPCOMING

*Silicon Valley Reads:* This year the committee has chosen two books: *The Souvenir* by Louise Steinman and *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka. Julie Otsuka will be visiting Morgan Hill on Saturday, February 4, 2006 for a special program.

*Holiday programs:* We are having a number of special children's programs to celebrate the upcoming holidays. Swazzle Puppet Company will be presenting "Polly Polar Bear & the Prince of the Sea" on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and again on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am. We will also be presenting snowy stories on Dec. 7 & 8 and Christmas stories and songs on Dec. 14 & 15.

*Friends/Commissioner Forum:* Because last year's program was so well-received, we will be having this program on an annual basis. The next one is scheduled for Saturday, January 7, 9:30-12:30 at library administrative headquarters. This is an excellent opportunity for members of our Friends and Commissions to meet with colleagues from other communities.

## ■ Reading with Others

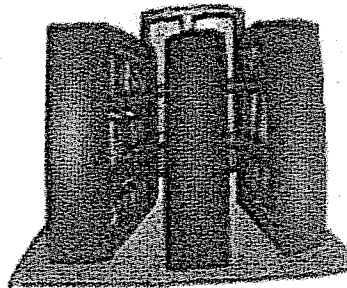
# Join or Start a Book Club

The Santa Clara County Library is offering a new service: Book Club To Go. These new kits are available to help you get your book club started. Each kit includes 12 copies of the book and a handy discussion guide. The guide contains a

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brief introduction to the book, an author biography, the book club "rules of the road," information about starting and running a book club, and discussion topics specific to the book. Also included is a book sign-out sheet for use by the book club and a feedback and suggestion form so you can tell us what you think.

For more information about this new service and for a complete list of the books that are available, check our Web site at [www.santaclaracountylib.org](http://www.santaclaracountylib.org)



## AtTheLibrary

[/morganhill/MHbkgrp.html](http://morganhill/MHbkgrp.html).

Here are just a few of the books that are available: "The Secret Life of Bees," "Life of Pi," "Reading Lolita in Tehran," "Lolita," "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," "Bel Canto" and many more.

If you're interested in joining an existing book club, the Morgan Hill Library has a

book club that meets every month on the last Thursday at 7:30pm, with the exception of December. Here are the books that we'll be discussing:

**Nov. 17:** "Sleeping with Schubert" by Bonnie Marson

**Jan. 26:** "When the Emperor Was Divine" by Julie Otsuka

**Feb. 23:** "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald

**March 30:** "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini

**April 27:** "Ella Minnow Pea" by Mark Dunn

**May 25:** "The Plot Against America" by Philip Roth

**June 29:** "The Photograph" by Penelope Lively

The Morgan Hill Library is open Tuesday 1-9pm, Wednesday, 10am-9pm, Thursday, 10am-9pm, Friday 10am-6pm, and Saturday 10am-6pm. You can reach us at (408) 779-3196 or on the Web at [www.santaclaracountylib.org](http://www.santaclaracountylib.org)



# December 2005

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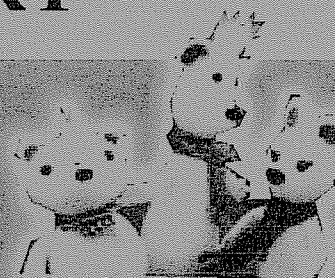
## MORGAN HILL LIBRARY

### "Swazzle Puppets"

will present a magical holiday show!

*Polly Polar Bear & the Prince of the Sea*

Dates & Times: Wednesday, Nov. 30th, 7:00 pm  
Thursday, Dec. 1st, 10:30 am



### STORYTIMES



**"Baby, It's c-o-l-d outside!"** —snowy stories, movie, and a "mitten" craft  
(wear your woollies!):

Dec 7, Wed. 7:00 p.m. (Families invited!)

Dec 8, Thurs. 10:05 & 10:45 a.m. (Ages 2-5)

**Christmas Stories and Songs with lively books, jolly puppets, and  
a lovely "scissor" tale! Stay for the holiday short film!**

Dec 14, Wed. 7:00 p.m. (Families invited!)

Dec 15, Thurs. 10:05 & 10:45 am (Ages 2-5)

### Holiday Break

**NO storytimes 12/21, 12/22, 12/28, & 12/29**

Sponsored by FRIENDS OF THE MORGAN HILL LIBRARY

